

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: G. E.- SNECMA

1. LE FIGARO APRIL 9 PUBLISHES REPORT OF INTERVIEW IN U. S. WITH GERHARD NEUMANN, HEAD OF G. E. AVIATION ENGINE DIVISION, CONCERNING G. E.- SNECMA COOPERATION ON CFM-56 ENGINE. ARTICLE CAPTIONED: " HELD BACK BY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, WILL SNECMA- G. E. COOPERATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 10- TON ENGINE START UP AGAIN? AVIATION WEEKLY AIR ET COSMOS ALSO REPORTS INTERVIEW IN ITS APRIL 7 ISSUE, NOTING NEUMANN MADE REMARKS ON OCCASION U. S. VISIT BY GROUP OF FRENCH JOURNALISTS.

2. AFTER REVIEWING REASONS G. E.- SNECMA COOPERATION, LE FIGARO ARTICLE STATES IS " OPEN SECRET" U. S. REFUSAL LICENSE EXPORT G. E. ENGINE CORE LAST YEAR DUE TO CAMPAIGN MOUNTED BY PRATT AND WHITNEY THAT WON CONVERTS WITHIN USG " IN EPISODE OF TRADE WAR U. S. WAGING AGAINST EUROPE AND FRANCE IN PARTICULAR." MENTION MADE OF POMPIDOU- NIXON LETTER AND CURRENT G. E. EFFORTS OVERCOME REMAINING OBSTACLES WITHIN U. S. ADMINISTRATION. NEUMANN REPORTED AS SAYING FINAL DECISION EXPECTED BEFORE OPENING PARIS AIR SHOW END MAY.

3. NEUMANN INTERVIEWED ALSO PROMPTS LENGTHY ARTICLE BY JACQUES ISNARD IN TODAY' S LE MONDE WHICH TAKES RATHER JAUNDICED LOOK AT G. E.' S MOTIVES IN DEPICTING IN SUCH DRAMATIC TERMS IMPORTANCE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SNECMA. LE MONDE SUSPECTS THAT IF MARKET UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR CFM-56 IS AS ATTRACTIVE AS G. E. CONTENDS, THEN IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE G. E. REFUSING DEVELOP 10- TON ENGINE ON ITS OWN, AS NEUMANN PRETENDS, IF SNECMA DEAL FALLS THROUGH AND NO U. S. FUNDING FORTHCOMING. LE MONDE READS THIS AS G. E. PRESSURE ON USG TO APPROVE G. E. - SNECMA DEAL. SPECULATING ON WHY G. E. SETS SO MUCH STORE ON COOPERATION WITH SNECMA, " WHICH TODAY LIVES MORE ON HOPES (CONCORDE, AIRBUS) THAN FIRM SALES IN CIVIL AVIATION FIELDS," LE MONDE SUGGESTS G. E. PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING INDUSTRIAL BASE IN EUROPE SO THAT ITS " TRANSATLANTIC GROUP" WITH SNECMA CAN COMPETE WITH ROLLS ROYCE- PRATT WHITNEY GROUP. IN SHORT, REASONS LE MONDE, IT LOOKS AS IF G. E. AND PRATT AND WHITNEY ARE TRYING TO EXPORT THEIR RIVALRY TO EUROPE AND IN SO DOING PREVENT ANY FUTURE POSSIBILITY COOPERATION BETWEEN ROLLS ROYCE AND SNECMA. IF G. E. COOPERATION WITH SNECMA APPROVED BY USG AND PRATT WHITNEY CONCLUDES AGREEMENT WITH ROLLS ROYCE, " EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT ENGINE INDUSTRY WILL HAVE DIED ABORNING," CONCLUDES LE MONDE.

IRWIN

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